

Agency's Advisory Board representing the National Guard Association of the United States.

Mr. President, I would, however, be remiss if I did not mention what I feel has been one of the most important aspects of the General's service to Louisiana: serving as the Director of the Louisiana Office of Emergency Preparedness (LOEP). Throughout the years, Louisianas have become all too familiar with life-threatening dangers presented by mother nature at her worst. General Stroud has certainly taken the motto "be prepared" to heart by ensuring that Louisiana is capable of handling the impact of natural disasters with order and efficiency. Under his supervision, operations at LOEP have undergone state-of-the-art advances which have allowed personnel to provide immediate assistance to citizens affected by nature's fury.

Mr. President, many individuals have a calling to serve the public in a variety of ways. They make sacrifices to contribute their talents to the safety, security and well-being of others. These are the individuals whose commitment to excellence and selfless dedication are evident through their leadership and the challenges they choose to accept. On November 8, 1997, General Ansel Stroud will relinquish his present position as Adjutant General, a position he has dutifully held for over seventeen years of his fifty-three years of service to our country. Although he is leaving the realm of public service, the contributions he has made to the greater good of the State of Louisiana will continue to have affect for years to come. It is my most sincere wish that General Stroud and Jane, his wife, will reap all the best which life has to offer, May God bless and God speed.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, October 29, 1997, the Federal debt stood at \$5,429,377,880,990.06 (Five trillion, four hundred twenty-nine billion, three hundred seventy-seven million, eight hundred eighty thousand, nine hundred ninety dollars and six cents).

One year ago, October 29, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,236,574,000,000 (Five trillion, two hundred thirty-six billion, five hundred seventy-four million).

Five years ago, October 29, 1992, the Federal debt stood at \$4,067,523,000,000 (Four trillion, sixty-seven billion, five hundred twenty-three million).

Ten years ago, October 29, 1987, the Federal debt stood at \$2,385,077,000,000 (Two trillion, three hundred eighty-five billion, seventy-seven million).

Fifteen years ago, October 29, 1982, the Federal debt stood at \$1,142,825,000,000 (One trillion, one hundred forty-two billion, eight hundred twenty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion—\$4,286,552,880,990.06 (Four trillion, two

hundred eighty-six billion, five hundred fifty-two million, eight hundred eighty thousand, nine hundred ninety dollars and six cents) during the past 15 years.

MRS. LISA D'AMATO MURPHY, COMMUNITY LEADER OF THE YEAR

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I was informed that Mrs. Lisa D'Amato Murphy, daughter of Senator D'AMATO, was chosen as "Community Leader of the Year" by the Island Park Kiwanis Club. Her significant volunteer participation in both civic and church activities is the basis for this distinguished award. It is important to mention that Lisa is the wife of Judge Jerry Murphy of the Island Park Village Court and the mother of five children. Yet, so strong is her commitment to others that she somehow finds the time to serve her community. While so many people bemoan the lack of hours in a day, Lisa clearly demonstrates that time for community service can be found—if it is a priority.

On behalf of the entire Senate family, I extend our sincere congratulations to Mrs. Lisa D'Amato Murphy, Island Park, New York's "Community Leader of the Year."

NOMINATION OF BILL LANN LEE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this has been an extraordinary week in Washington with the first State visit by the Chinese leadership since 1989. While President Jiang Zemin's visit has resulted in important agreements on economic, environmental and security issues between our two nations, it has not resulted in the hoped for progress on human rights issues in China.

Yesterday, I spoke about Ngawang Choephel, a Tibetan scholar and documentary filmmaker who was a Fulbright scholar at Middlebury College in Vermont. In 1995 he had gone to Tibet to document traditional Tibetan music and dance when he was detained by Chinese authorities and then sentenced to 18 years in prison for allegedly spying on behalf of the Dalai Lama. No evidence to support these claims has ever been produced, despite my persistent inquiries. Nor have the Chinese authorities provided any information about Mr. Choephel's whereabouts or health status over the past two years. I have raised these concerns with President Jiang directly, emphasizing to him that Mr. Choephel's release from prison would be a meaningful step in the right direction on human rights issues. Yesterday and today in meetings with the Chinese President, I raised this human rights issue, again.

The gulf between our two countries can most clearly be seen on the issue of human rights. This week demonstrates the distance between our two countries in another way as the Senate considers President Clinton's nomination of Bill Lann Lee to be the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights

Division at the U.S. Department of Justice. When confirmed, Bill Lee will be the principal law enforcement officer of the Federal Government to ensure the civil rights and equal treatment of all Americans. He will also be the first Asian-American to hold this post and exercise such authority.

A meaningful step the Senate should take without delay is to confirm Bill Lee, a Chinese-American whose life story and life's work are quintessentially American. At the same time we are urging the Chinese Government to improve their human rights' record, we should demonstrate through action and not just words our own commitment to human rights and civil rights by proceeding without further delay on this important nomination.

Mr. Lee was born in Harlem to Chinese immigrant parents. His parents ran a laundry in New York. He went on to graduate from Yale College magna cum laude and then Columbia Law School. He testified last week that his childhood experiences, which included hearing racial slurs directed at his parents and his father's inability to rent an apartment after returning from volunteering for military service in World War II, greatly influenced his decision to dedicate his life to civil rights work. Mr. Lee's efforts over the years have ensured Americans of all races and creeds opportunities to advance in their careers, remain in their homes and raise healthy children.

Since July, Senator KENNEDY and I repeatedly urged the committee to hold a hearing on Mr. Lee's nomination before the Columbus Day recess in order to give this important nomination an opportunity to be considered by the Senate this year. Unfortunately that hearing only took place last week. Chairman HATCH has consistently indicated his commitment to getting this nomination considered before adjournment.

At the hearing, Mr. Lee answered hours of questions. The Republican members of the committee and the majority leader also submitted pages of written questions to him, which have also been answered. All members of the committee have met or had the opportunity to meet with the nominee personally. Unfortunately there was no business meeting of the Judiciary Committee this week. I have asked the chairman to report this nomination to the Senate without delay and hope that he will do so.

Bill Lee is a nominee who has impressed everyone with whom he has met. He is a man of integrity who has practiced mainstream civil rights law for 23 years. He is a practical problem solver, as attested to in tributes from opposing counsel and people from both political parties.

Chairman HATCH has clearly indicated that he views Bill Lee as imminently qualified for the Assistant Attorney General position at Department of Justice. At Mr. Lee's nomination